

IGNITE Role Model Library:

21 Inspiring Social Enterprise Ideas





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Introduction:

This Role Model Library brings together an inspiring collection of 21 youth-led ideas born through the IGNITE Youth Labs across Europe. Each initiative in this library reflects the creativity, commitment, and lived experience of young people who identified real challenges in their communities and transformed them into practical, socially driven solutions.

Spanning countries, cultures, and contexts, the role models address a wide range of social priorities: reducing isolation and loneliness, strengthening community connections, improving access to food, clothing, wellbeing, and skills, supporting mental health, promoting environmental sustainability, and creating pathways to employment and active citizenship.



BELGIUM

Community Connect

The Team

The Community Connect team was formed during the IGNITE Youth Lab hosted by Open Education Hub in Brussels.

The Social Challenge

Many young people experience social isolation, loneliness, and exclusion due to limited access to affordable, welcoming community spaces and activities. This challenge is particularly strong for young people with fewer opportunities, including NEETs, who may lack social networks and confidence to engage in existing initiatives.

Their Solution!

Community Connect is a youth-led initiative that creates accessible, low-cost social and educational activities designed and delivered by young people for young people. The concept is based on the idea that meaningful connection is best built through shared experiences in informal and welcoming environments. Activities are co-created with participants and may include creative workshops, discussion groups, skill-sharing sessions, cultural exchanges, and informal community meet-ups. Formats are flexible and adaptable to different local contexts, allowing activities to respond directly to young people's interests and needs.

Community Connect strengthens social inclusion by offering safe spaces where young people feel welcomed, listened to, and encouraged to participate. Through peer-led facilitation, participants develop communication skills, confidence, and a stronger sense of belonging. Over time, young people are encouraged to take active roles in planning and facilitating activities, reinforcing empowerment and civic engagement.

- What makes this idea innovative?

The innovation of Community Connect lies in its participatory, peer-led approach. Rather than offering predefined programmes, the initiative is built around co-creation with young people, ensuring relevance and ownership. The focus on informal, low-threshold activities makes participation accessible to young people who may not engage in traditional youth services.

- How will it be financially sustainable?

- Small participation fees for selected activities, ensuring affordability.
- Partnerships with youth centres, municipalities, and community organisations.
- Local and regional funding linked to youth participation and social inclusion.
- In-kind support such as free spaces and materials.

Contact for Follow-up

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Green Steps

The Team

Green Steps was created by young people in Belgium who shared concerns about environmental issues but felt overwhelmed by the complexity of existing sustainability initiatives. During the Youth Lab, they collaborated to design an idea that translates environmental awareness into simple, realistic actions that young people can adopt in their daily lives.

The Social Challenge

Despite growing awareness of climate and environmental issues, many young people lack practical guidance and motivation to change everyday habits. Sustainability is often presented in abstract or technical ways, creating distance rather than engagement.

Their Solution!

Green Steps is an educational and action-based initiative that promotes sustainable behaviours through interactive workshops, awareness sessions, and community-based challenges. The project focuses on small, achievable actions related to waste reduction, responsible consumption, and environmentally friendly daily practices.

Activities are delivered using non-formal education methods and peer facilitation. Workshops encourage reflection on everyday habits and guide participants to identify realistic changes they can implement immediately. Community challenges motivate collective action and reinforce learning through practice.

Green Steps empowers young people to take responsibility for sustainability by breaking complex issues into manageable steps. Through peer education and local engagement, participants increase their environmental awareness and adopt more sustainable behaviours, contributing to positive change at community level.

- What makes this idea innovative?

The innovation lies in the focus on simplicity and behavioural change. By prioritising small, achievable actions and peer-led learning, Green Steps lowers barriers to participation and avoids overwhelming or moralising approaches to sustainability.

- How will it be financially sustainable?

- Delivery of workshops to schools, youth organisations, and community groups.
- Partnerships with environmental organisations and local authorities.
- Funding linked to environmental education, awareness, and youth engagement

Contact for Follow-up

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Youth Skills Lab

The Team

The young people aged 18 - 29 who took part in the IGNITE Youth Lab in Belgium and were interested in developing practical skills, confidence, and personal growth. Youth Skills Lab was developed by young participants who experienced barriers to education, training, and employment. Through shared reflection and teamwork during the Youth Lab, they identified a common need for practical skills, confidence-building, and supportive learning environments.

The Social Challenge

Many young people with fewer opportunities lack access to practical skills development, confidence-building experiences, and informal learning environments that support employability and personal growth.

Their solution!

Youth Skills Lab is a peer-led initiative offering informal skill-sharing sessions, mentoring, and collaborative projects. The initiative focuses on transversal skills such as communication, teamwork, problem-solving, initiative, and self-confidence, using non-formal and experiential learning methods.

Sessions are designed to be practical and participatory, allowing participants to learn by doing, share knowledge, and support each other's development. Mentoring elements provide guidance and encouragement, while collaborative projects help translate skills into real-life contexts.

Youth Skills Lab supports young people in developing confidence, autonomy, and employability skills. The peer-led structure fosters mutual support and empowerment, helping participants feel more capable of taking initiative in personal, educational, and professional settings.

- What makes this idea innovative?

The initiative challenges traditional top-down training models by positioning young people as both learners and contributors. Peer-led facilitation creates a safe and empowering learning environment, particularly suited to young people with fewer opportunities.

- How will it be financially sustainable?

- Partnerships with youth organisations, training centres, and employment services.
- Project-based funding linked to youth inclusion and employability.
- Support from local stakeholders and social programmes.

Contact for Follow-up

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FRANCE

Solidarity grocery store

The Team

Names of young person involved: Adam Merdas

Adam Merdas is 21 years old and wants to create a solidarity grocery store in the 3rd arrondissement neighbourhood in Marseille. He's inspired by his life in the city and observation that many youth and families don't have access to opportunities and face challenges to address their basic grocery needs.

The Social Challenge

Community problem addressed: Lack of access to affordable grocery for youth and families, unemployed young people with no structured activities and community members who can benefit from this shop and for some learn new vending and shop management skills.

Their Solution!

Social enterprise concept: Adam proposes creating a pilot solidarity grocery shop, managed by key community members to (1) access basic food and daily grocery items at an affordable price and (2) create solidarity and connection with existing shops, supermarkets and businesses to collect their unsold articles.

How it creates social impact: The project enhances community support and solidarity. It provides affordable grocery items to allow unemployed youth and community members to access a fair and promotes community engagement, thus creating a welcoming environment while employing community members learning vending skills.

Innovation & Sustainability

What makes this idea innovative?

This idea is innovative as it answers a key need of this area, where a high rate of unemployed and deprived families is living. The hope is to create other iterations to strengthen bonds and network between community members, local institutions and professionals. Aside, the use of community members to manage the shop and accompany them in a learning pathway is interesting and should enhance engagement as it brings professional guidance into a low-income neighbourhood where such services are normally inaccessible, making it inclusive and locally driven. Finally, while responding to basic needs for affordable grocery, it recreates communication, bonds and self-esteem within community members.

How will it be financially sustainable?

Funding is planned through institutional partnership, local business and community participation to provide starting location, afterward, the sustainability will be strengthened through the shop income generation and iterations.

Future Plans

Next steps: Find a strategic location and identify key community members to ensure engagement, and basic skills to start. Then build institutional and local partnerships, while promoting the project on social media to raise interest.

Support needed: Find a good location and identify businesses like supermarkets interested in supporting the solidarity grocery store.

“Grocery store for us by us”

Partner Contact for Follow-up

Partner organisation: Petra Patrimonia Corsica

Contact person & email: Gaël RENNESSON rennesson.gael@petrapatrimonia-corse.com



Support to community through recycling and upcycling

The Team

Names of young person involved: Leo Gasmi

Leo Gasmi is a 20 years old boy from Bastia, currently studying in Marseille operational & commercial management 2nd year - who wants to promote community support through recycling and circular economy. Inspired by the needs he observes around him, he aims at creating a circular economy social business to allow deprived families to access clothes and goods at minimal price. His motivation comes from his background and acute needs observed in neighbourhoods with limited economic power and opportunities.

The Social Challenge

Community problem addressed: Lack of access to affordable clothes and goods for youth and families, unemployed young people with no structured activities and community members who can learn upcycling methods and processes.

The solution!

Social enterprise concept: Leo proposes creating a community team for collecting old clothes and goods (coffee machine, TV, anything useful) and have a place to repair them and allow community members to (1) access those goods and clothes for symbolic price and (2) create training sessions and DIY workshops for all community members to repair and fix those collected items. This setting will integrate skilled community members (elders, mothers and youths) to collect, fix and train others.

How it creates social impact: The project enhances community support and solidarity. It provides structured activities for unemployed youth and community members and promotes community engagement creating a welcoming environment that motivates people to share their skills while benefitting from upcycled goods and clothes.

5. Innovation & Sustainability

What makes this idea innovative?

This type of activity is already existing in different places, although not everywhere and insisting on the connections and networks built is indeed innovative. As it helps wellbeing and communication in the community-focused space. It brings professional guidance into a low-income neighbourhood where such services are normally inaccessible, making it inclusive and locally driven.

How will it be financially sustainable?

Funding is planned through partnerships with local municipalities, local businesses and sponsorship from big companies (CMA-CGM) to provide starting material, afterward, the sustainability will be strengthened through the shop and workshop activities.

6. Future Plans

Next steps: Seek institutional and local partnerships, starting small to ensure basic equipment, identify a warehouse or adequate space, promote the project on social media and public transport posters and begin pilot campaigns and training with community members.

Support needed: location, basic DIY equipment and sewing machines, trainers, municipal or corporate funding and visibility through community channels.

7. Media & Links (optional)

Short quote: "Give a second life to your goods and clothes, and learn through it."

8. Partner Contact for Follow-up (optional)

Partner organisation: Petra Patrimonia Corsica

Contact person & email: Gaël RENNESSON rennesson.gael@petrapatrimonia-corse.com



Sové Manjé

The Team:

Names of young person involved: Nicolas Histel

Nicolas Histel is a 25 years old boy from Cayenne in Guyane. The Sové Manjé project was born from a dual observation, both personal and territorial. On the one hand, as a young Guyanese person attentive to social and environmental issues, I witnessed the reality of daily food waste in local shops, where many perfectly edible products are thrown away due to a lack of outlets. On the other hand, I observed increasing food insecurity, particularly among students, large families, and isolated individuals, for whom access to a healthy and varied diet remains difficult.

Inspired by initiatives like Too Good To Go in mainland France, I quickly realized that no such solution was adapted to the local context of French Guiana.

The Social Challenge

Community problem addressed: Sové manjé addresses two major issues:

1. Food waste, by offering retailers a simple solution to sell their unsold but still edible food instead of throwing it away.
2. Food insecurity, by enabling households, students, and people in need to access quality food products at reduced prices.

The app also promotes more responsible consumption, a local circular economy, and collective awareness of the environmental challenges associated with food waste.

The solution!

Social enterprise concept: The proposed solution is a web and mobile application that connects retailers with surplus food to local consumers. Using an interactive map, users can view available food baskets nearby, reserve them online, and pick them up in person.

The application allows retailers to:

- Repurpose their surplus food instead of throwing it away,
- Generate additional income,
- Attract new customers. And it allows consumers to:
- Enjoy quality products at reduced prices,
- Discover new local businesses,
- Adopt an eco-responsible approach.

This user-friendly digital solution, designed for the local context, aims for rapid deployment throughout French Guiana.

How it creates social impact: We promise our customers a simple, affordable, and socially responsible solution for consuming differently, while also fighting local food waste.

For consumers, the promise is:

"Access quality food baskets at low prices, close to home, while taking action for the planet."

For partner retailers, the promise is:

"Turn your unsold goods into an opportunity, reduce your losses, and enhance your commitment to responsible practices."

Sové manjé is committed to offering an accessible, useful service aligned with the values of solidarity, environmental responsibility, and local sourcing.

Innovation & Sustainability

What makes this idea innovative?

The founding values of Sové Manjé are:

- Solidarity: creating connections between businesses and consumers while combating food insecurity.
- Ecology: reducing food waste at the local level.



- Accessibility: offering a simple, inclusive solution open to all.
- Local commitment: acting for and with the Guyanese community.
- Transparency: guaranteeing a clear, fair, and respectful service for both users and businesses.

How will it be financially sustainable?

Funding is planned through partnerships with local municipality, local businesses and sponsorship from big companies (CMA-CGM) to provide starting material, afterward, the sustainability will be strengthened through the shop and workshop activities.

Future Plans

Next steps: Seek institutional and local partnerships, starting small to ensure basic equipment, identify a warehouse or adequate space, promote the project on social media and public transport posters and begin pilot campaigns and training with community members.

Support needed: For the launch and development of Sové Manjé, I plan to leverage several elements of my personal, professional, and local network:

- Local businesses with whom I have already established relationships through my experience in the restaurant and retail sectors, to initiate the first partnerships.
- Friends and acquaintances in the digital world, who can provide occasional technical support (testing, advice, user feedback).
- Local support organizations (Youth Information Centers, Local Missions, BGE, etc.) for guidance, networking, and administrative support.
- Local associations and stakeholders, particularly in the areas of solidarity, food, and ecology, to create synergies and raise awareness of the platform.
- In my social media community, this network allows me to have a strong local presence, to validate my hypotheses on the ground and to ensure an organic spread of the service from the first weeks.

"Access quality food baskets at low prices, close to home, while taking action for the planet."

Partner Contact for Follow-up

Partner organisation: Petra Patrimonia Corsica

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GERMANY

Guten Appetit!



The Team

Olivia and Benjamin

We are Olivia (25), from Argentina, and Benjamin (28), from Brazil. Two young creatives who moved to Berlin in 2021. We met at a small, informal cooking night and saw how food could effortlessly bring people together across cultures and languages. Having experienced loneliness as newcomers ourselves, we are driven to create warm, inclusive spaces where everyone feels welcome around a shared table.

The Social Challenge

Berlin is a very international city, but many people still live in separate social bubbles. Many elderly people, international students, refugees, and newcomers often feel isolated, especially if they do not speak German confidently or cannot afford many social activities. At the same time, long-term residents and young people may have few chances to properly connect with people from different cultures. Affordable and welcoming community spaces in Berlin are limited, and this can make it hard for people to build real connections.

Their Solution!

“Guten Appetit” wants to create community and combat isolation through affordable and accessible intercultural cooking events. People from different cultural backgrounds come together to cook traditional dishes and share a meal. The events involve the participants and encourage each other to teach and share recipes from their culture over a hot meal.

Guten Appetit:

- brings Berliners from different backgrounds together in a relaxed and friendly way
- aims to include and connect
- Reduces loneliness, especially for newcomers and elderly people
- Values cultural knowledge by giving community members the role of hosts and teachers
- Encourages intercultural understanding beyond stereotypes

Innovation & Sustainability

What makes this idea innovative is that it uses food as a universal and accessible way to bring people together in a diverse city like Berlin. Instead of focusing on formal integration programmes, it creates informal, community-led spaces where people can connect naturally. Community members are not just participants but hosts and teachers, which helps build confidence and mutual respect. The idea is flexible and can be adapted to different neighbourhoods such as Neukölln, Kreuzberg, or Wedding.

The social enterprise would be financially sustainable through a mix of affordable ticket sales and sliding-scale pricing so no one is excluded. It would also work with community centres, NGOs, and cultural spaces across Berlin to reduce costs and reach more people. Support from local markets, food co-ops, and small businesses could help cover ingredients, while grants focused on integration, diversity, and social cohesion in Berlin would support the early stages. In the future, private events for schools, organisations, or companies could provide additional income.

Partner Contact for Follow-up

Partner organisation: Skills Elevation FHB

Contact person & email: Alice Picq alice@skillselevationfhb.com



So Has Bean!

The team

Ricarda and Amey

We are Ricarda (27) and Amey (27), two coffee fanatics who moved to Berlin and fell in love with the city's coffee culture. Inspired by Germany's eco-conscious mindset, we wanted to transform coffee waste into something functional and fun. Combining our passion for sustainability with Berlin's creative scene, we create reusable, compostable furniture from spent coffee grounds: perfect for community spaces, eco-events, and even techno raves!



The Social Challenge

Berlin generates tons of coffee waste, while affordable, sustainable furniture for events and community spaces is hard to come by. Many venues, especially for cultural or youth events, rely on single-use materials, contributing to landfill waste and missing opportunities for circular design.

Their Solution!

So Has Bean! collects used coffee grounds from local cafés and transforms them into reusable, compostable furniture (stools, tables, and modular pieces) that are eco-friendly, stylish, and functional.

The project reduces waste, promotes sustainable design, and provides accessible furniture for events, community spaces, and gatherings. It also encourages people to rethink how everyday waste can be turned into creative, practical solutions.

Innovation & Sustainability

We turn coffee waste into durable, compostable furniture—a unique combination of circular economy, sustainable design, and community engagement. It's fun, functional, and fits Berlin's alternative culture, from cafés to techno raves.

Income comes from furniture rentals, sales, collaborations with cafés and cultural venues, and eco-conscious events. Local partnerships keep material costs low while promoting visibility and impact.

Partner Contact for Follow-up

Partner organisation: Skills Elevation FHB

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Spiegelraum

The Team

Lena and Devika

We are Lena (22) and Devika (24). We met at a university workshop on youth mental health. We both have personal experiences with anxiety and panic attacks which inspired us to create accessible support tools.



The Social Challenge

Youth mental health is a growing concern, with many young people experiencing panic attacks, anxiety, and stress. Access to immediate, affordable, and stigma-free support is limited. Traditional therapy can be costly, inaccessible, or intimidating, leaving a gap in resources for early intervention and coping strategies.

Their solution!

Spiegelraum is a mobile app that creates a “mirror room” for self-reflection and emotional support. Features include “Mirror Journal” to track emotions, triggers, and coping strategies, helping users reflect on pattern and guided exercises encouraging users to see challenges from a new angle, promoting mindfulness and cognitive reframing. The app will also connect users with professional resources such as help hotlines, and local youth mental health organisations.

Spiegelraum helps young people understand and manage their emotions, reduces the intensity of panic attacks, and fosters a supportive community. By promoting self-reflection and perspective-taking, it strengthens resilience and mental wellbeing in the youth community.

Innovation & Sustainability

Spiegelraum integrates the mirror/window metaphor into its design, making emotional self-reflection intuitive and visual. It will combine AI-driven tracking, interactive exercises, and peer support, providing an immediate, stigma-free digital space tailored for youth.

Spiegelraume will partner with Berlin schools, youth centers, and mental health NGOs provide grants and sponsorships. Crowdfunding campaigns engage the community while funding app development and outreach.

Partner Contact for Follow-up

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GREECE

Second Chance Wardrobe

The Team

The team consists of five young people aged 20–26 who met during the IGNITE Youth Lab in Thessaloniki. Three are NEETs, one is a young migrant man, and one is a long-term unemployed young woman. Despite limited financial resources, they share a strong interest in sustainability, social inclusion, and mutual support. Their motivation comes from personal experiences of economic hardship and a desire to create practical, community-based solutions.

The Social Challenge

Many young people in the neighbourhood struggle to afford appropriate clothing, particularly for job interviews, internships, or formal situations. This lack of access negatively affects confidence, self-presentation, and employability. At the same time, large quantities of wearable clothing remain unused or are discarded, contributing to textile waste and environmental harm. The project addresses both youth exclusion and unsustainable consumption practices.

Their solution

Second Chance Wardrobe is a small-scale, community-based clothing exchange and repair initiative. It operates through monthly pop-up events hosted at a partner community venue. Young people can donate, swap, or repair clothing, extending the life of garments and making them accessible to those in need. A key feature is the “Interview Corner,” where curated outfits can be borrowed specifically for job interviews or internships.

The project improves young people's confidence and access to employment opportunities while promoting sustainable fashion habits. By encouraging reuse, repair, and sharing, it reduces textile waste and fosters a culture of solidarity. The initiative also creates a welcoming community space where young people can support each other and gain practical skills.

Innovation & Sustainability

Second Chance Wardrobe combines three elements: clothing exchange, repair workshops, and an interview-focused borrowing system, into one accessible, youth-led service. The “Interview Corner” is particularly innovative, as it directly links sustainability with employability. The project is low-cost, replicable, and adaptable to different neighbourhoods. The initiative is designed to operate with minimal costs through partnerships with community venues and volunteer support. Sustainability may be ensured through small voluntary contributions, donations, collaborations with local organisations, and potential micro-grants or crowdfunding. In the future, paid repair services or upcycling workshops could generate modest income to cover basic expenses.

Future Plans

Next Steps for the Team:

- Pilot the first monthly “Swap Day”
- Secure a regular partner venue
- Develop a simple visual identity and communication materials
- Build partnerships with local NGOs, youth services, and clothing donors



PROBLEM ADDRESSED

Many young people in their neighbourhood struggle to afford basic clothing, especially for job interviews or formal situations. At the same time, large amounts of clothing end up unused or discarded.

SOLUTION

Creating a small-scale community clothing exchange and repair point, where young people can donate, swap, or repair clothing. A dedicated section (“Interview Corner”) would offer appropriate outfits that participants can borrow for job interviews or internships. The service would operate monthly at a partner venue.

ACTIVITIES

- Monthly pop-up “Swap Days” at a community venue
- Basic sewing and repair workshops led by volunteers





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Support Needed:

- Mentoring in social enterprise development
- Small seed funding for materials and promotion
- Access to sewing equipment and storage space

Partner Contact for Follow-up

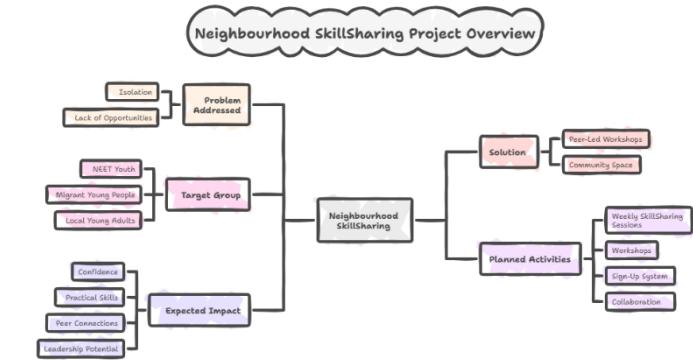
Partner organisation: Fifty-Fifty (Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute)

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Neighbourhood SkillSharing

The Team

The team is made up of five young people aged 19–30 who met through the IGNITE Youth Lab in Thessaloniki. Several participants have informal skills in areas such as digital design, cooking, languages, and communication but have had limited opportunities to use or develop them. United by a shared interest in learning, cooperation, and community building, they were motivated to create a peer-led initiative that values everyone's knowledge.



The Social Challenge

Many young people in the local area experience social isolation and lack access to affordable learning or skill-building opportunities. At the same time, they often possess valuable informal skills that remain unrecognised and unused. This gap limits their confidence, employability, and sense of belonging, particularly for NEET youth and young people with migrant backgrounds.

Their Solution

Neighbourhood SkillSharing is a peer-led skills exchange network where young people offer simple, practical workshops to each other. Activities may include basic Canva design, Greek language practice, cooking on a budget, CV writing, or other community-requested topics. Sessions take place weekly in a youth-friendly community space, using a rotating facilitator model where participants both teach and learn.

The project empowers young people by recognising their existing skills and giving them a platform to share knowledge. It builds confidence, strengthens peer connections, and creates low-cost learning opportunities. By encouraging active participation and collaboration, it fosters social inclusion and helps young people develop practical skills relevant to everyday life and employment.

What Makes This Idea Innovative?

The initiative challenges traditional learning models by positioning young people as both learners and trainers. It relies on peer-to-peer exchange rather than formal teaching, making learning accessible, informal, and community-driven. The flexible structure allows workshops to adapt quickly to participants' interests and local needs.

How Will It Be Financially Sustainable?

Neighbourhood SkillSharing is designed to operate with minimal costs through partnerships with local community spaces and youth organisations. Sustainability can be supported through voluntary contributions, small participation fees, collaborations with NGOs, and potential local funding. In the future, themed workshops or collaborations with external facilitators could provide modest income.

6. Future Plans

Next Steps for the Team:

- Pilot weekly SkillSharing sessions
- Create a simple sign-up and skills request system
- Test different workshop formats and topics
- Build partnerships with local organisations and youth centres



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Support Needed

- Mentoring on coordination and facilitation
- Access to free or low-cost community spaces
- Small funding for materials and promotion

Partner Contact for Follow-up (optional)

Partner Organisation Name: Fifty-Fifty (Social Innovation and Cohesion Institute)

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Neighbourhood Help Board

The Team

The team was made up of three young people aged 19–28 who met through local youth activities and informal community spaces in Thessaloniki. Two participants are NEETs and one is a student. With limited resources but strong community ties, they wanted to create a simple way for neighbours to support each other using skills, time, or items they already have.



The Social Challenge

Many people in the neighborhoods of Greece, need small, everyday help, such as borrowing items, getting basic support, or finding local services, but don't know where to ask. At the same time, others are willing to help but lack a simple, visible way to offer support. This leads to isolation and missed opportunities.

Their Solution

Neighborhood Help Board is a physical community notice board placed in a shared space. Residents can post simple offers and requests such as "I can help with CVs," "Looking for help moving," or "Free clothes available." The board can be moderated by young volunteers and updated weekly to keep it safe, clear, and relevant.

The idea strengthens community bonds by making mutual support visible and accessible. It helps people exchange help without money, reduces isolation, and encourages cooperation between neighbours. Young people gain experience in coordination, communication, and community engagement with very low pressure.

Innovation & Sustainability

It's simple. The idea requires almost no funding, no technology, and no specialised skills. By using a physical board rather than an app, it remains accessible to everyone, including those with limited digital access. It turns everyday kindness into a structured, community-led system. Costs are minimal and can be covered through small donations, support from a host organisation, or local sponsorship (e.g. printing posters). In the future, the idea could expand to include themed boards or partnerships with local services.

Future Plans

The next steps for the team include installing the first Neighbourhood Help Board in a partner community venue and setting up simple rules and moderation guidelines to ensure the board remains safe, respectful, and easy to use. The initiative will be promoted through word of mouth and printed flyers to encourage local residents to participate. To successfully launch the project, the team will need access to a visible and accessible community space, basic printing materials, and light mentoring support in community coordination and facilitation.

*"Sometimes it's hard to ask for help.
This board makes it easier to say what you need and what you can offer."*

Partner Contact for Follow-up (optional)

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IRELAND

PulseGuard Youth Responders

The Team

Roisin Duigan , Jamie Finnegan, Callum Galligan , Mark O Reilly , Tomas Fay , Andrew Tiernan

We are six teenagers aged 14–17 from different schools who meet through our Foróige youth group. We live in a rural area with many older people and a strong sporting community. Some of us play sports, one has a mam who is a nurse, and all of us care deeply about our grandparents and elders. Together, we want to learn first aid and help others, making our community safer and stronger.

The Social Challenge

Young people are present at almost all community events (family fun days, youth discos, sports games and even at their grandparents' homes) Yet many do not have the skills to respond in emergencies such as sudden cardiac arrest, accidents, or injuries. In rural areas, paramedics may take too long to arrive, leaving lives at risk. This social enterprise idea addresses the gap by training youth in first aid so they can act quickly and confidently until professional help arrives.

Their solution!

- Social Enterprise Concept:

The main idea is to train and support young people as volunteer first aid responders for community events, sports games, youth discos, family fun days, and even in their own homes. The service offered is accessible CPR and first aid training, along with organising youth responder training which can provide immediate help until paramedics arrive. This enterprise combines lifesaving skills with youth empowerment, creating safer communities while giving young people confidence, responsibility, and a chance to make a real difference.

- How it Creates Social Impact: *(Explain how the enterprise benefits people, the environment, or the community)*

Young people learn first aid so they can help at community events, sports games, discos, and at home with family. This means quicker care in emergencies, especially in rural areas where paramedics may take longer. It makes the community safer and gives young people confidence and responsibility.

Innovation & Sustainability

- What makes this idea innovative?

This idea is different because it trains young people to give first aid at everyday places like sports games, discos, family fun days, and at home. Young people are already there, so they can step in quickly if something happens. It makes the community safer and gives youth an important role in helping others.

- How will it be financially sustainable?

The enterprise will start as the first round of training for the youth group will be provided as part in the IGNITE Project Labs. After that, local fundraisers, donations from sports clubs, schools, and community groups will provide extra money to keep training going for other young people. This mix of early support and ongoing community backing will make sure the project can continue and grow over time.



Step Together

The Team

Ellen Creegan, Erin Coyle, Amy Sheridan , Sean Fitzsimons , Katelyn O Sullivan

We are a group of young people from a rural area who share a love for dance and creativity. Each of us has our own individual interests, from jiving to TikTok routines to making up new moves, but we all want a space where we can come together. Since there aren't many services for young people locally, we're excited to start something new that suits all ages, brings energy, and gives our community a fun place to connect.

The Social Challenge

- Community or Social Problem Addressed:

In our rural area, there are very few services or safe spaces for young people to meet, be active, and have fun. This lack of opportunities can lead to boredom, isolation, and low confidence. Many young people want creative outlets like dance, but there are no affordable or inclusive options nearby. Our project addresses this gap by offering a space for all ages to connect, stay healthy, and express themselves through dance.

The Idea / Solution

- Social Enterprise Concept:

The main idea is to run community dance sessions for different age groups—kids, young people, and elderly. Each group will have classes suited to their interests, from fun TikTok routines for youth, to jive and creative movement for adults, and gentle dance activities for older people. This service gives everyone a safe, welcoming space to be active, social, and creative. By offering age-specific sessions, the project makes dance accessible to all and strengthens community connections.

- How it Creates Social Impact:

This enterprise helps people by giving them a safe and fun place to be active, social, and creative. It improves health through movement, builds confidence by letting young people and adults express themselves, and reduces isolation in rural areas by bringing all ages together. Kids, youth, and older people can join sessions suited to them, making the project inclusive and welcoming. By connecting different generations, it strengthens community bonds and creates a positive, supportive environment.

Innovation & Sustainability

- What makes this idea innovative?

This incentive is innovative because it uses dance not only as entertainment but as a tool for wellbeing, inclusion, and community connection. By offering age-specific sessions for kids, young people, and older adults, it ensures everyone has a space that suits their needs. The mix of popular TikTok routines, traditional jive, and original dances created by participants makes it fresh and engaging. Training young people as peer leaders adds another layer of innovation, creating a cycle where participants become teachers and role models, spreading the impact further across the community.

- How will it be financially sustainable?

The idea will run in the local community centre, meaning there are no rental fees to cover. A small attendance fee will be charged for each session, which helps generate steady income. These funds can be used to host larger community events, purchase equipment such as music speakers, and expand the program. Additional support will come from local fundraisers, donations from schools, sports clubs, and community groups, ensuring the project can grow while remaining affordable and accessible.

Future Plans

- Next Steps for the Team:



The team will begin by piloting a small set of dance sessions in the local community centre, offering separate classes for kids, young people, and older adults to test interest and gather feedback. From there, they will build partnerships with schools, sports clubs, and community groups to promote the program and expand participation. To support growth, they will organise fundraisers and apply for community grants to cover equipment like speakers, while also charging small attendance fees. They plan to generate extra income by performing at local events and hosting dance sessions at family fun days, ensuring visibility and sustainability.

- Support Needed:

We need support to cover the cost of equipment such as music speakers and sound systems, as well as materials to help run sessions for different age groups. Guidance from local dance teachers or community leaders would strengthen the program, while partnerships with schools, sports clubs, and community groups will help spread awareness and encourage participation. Financial support through small grants, donations, or sponsorships will also be important to keep the classes affordable and sustainable.



Community Kitchen Collective

The Team

Darragh Smyth, Lara Cosgrove, Nadine lynch, Tom Creegan, Keira leathern, Ryan Keogh
This group of young people all share a love for food, with pizza being their unanimous favourite. Through their youth group, they already use a popcorn and candyfloss machine to raise money at local events and movie nights hosted by their social club. Now, they want to expand their efforts by offering more catering options, including pizza-making and fresh sandwiches, so they can bring even more tasty experiences to their community while supporting local events.

The Social Challenge

In rural areas, young people often face limited opportunities for skill development, social connection, and income generation. At the same time, local events and social clubs struggle to find affordable catering options. This enterprise addresses youth unemployment by giving young people a way to earn money through food services, promotes inclusion by involving all ages in cooking activities, and strengthens community bonds by making healthy, fun food experiences accessible to everyone.

Their Solution!

- Social Enterprise Concept:

This youth-led enterprise already provides popcorn and candyfloss at local events and movie nights, generating income for their group. Building on that success, they want to expand into catering more substantial food options, starting with pizza and sandwiches, and later adding dishes like rice and salads. By offering both fun treats and practical meals, the enterprise will serve community events, family days, and social gatherings, while giving young people valuable cooking and business experience. The service combines affordable catering with skill-building, making food a way to connect, celebrate, and sustain local activities.

- How it Creates Social Impact:

This youth-led enterprise creates social impact by giving young people practical skills in cooking, catering, and teamwork, while also generating income to support their group. It benefits the community by providing affordable, fun food options (like pizza, sandwiches, popcorn, and candyfloss) at local events and family days, making gatherings more enjoyable and accessible. The project reduces isolation by bringing people together around shared meals, promotes healthier eating through expanding into options like rice and salads, and strengthens community bonds

5. Innovation & Sustainability

- What makes this idea innovative?

fun food activities into a youth-driven social enterprise. The group has already proven success with popcorn and candyfloss machines at local events, and now they're expanding into more substantial catering. What makes it stand out is the combination of affordable treats with practical meals, all delivered by young people who are learning real cooking and business skills.

- How will it be financially sustainable?

The enterprise will be financially sustainable by building on the group's existing success. Their popcorn and candyfloss sales at local events have already generated income, which will be reinvested to purchase a pizza oven. A pizza cooking class funded through the labs will provide the initial launch, covering start-up costs and ensuring the project begins with strong support. Ongoing sustainability will come from charging small fees for cooking classes, catering at community events, and selling affordable food options such as pizza, sandwiches, rice, and salads. Partnerships with local farms, shops, and social clubs will help reduce costs and expand reach, while community support and fundraising activities will provide additional income streams.



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ITALY

Beegreen

The Team

Giuseppe Truncellito, Ilenia Ricciardi, Caterina Dallai, Vanessa Moretti, Martina Grotti, Mohamed Gueria, Gabriele Monti, Francesco Pratellesi Ersida Dervishi, Ilenia Roma

Young people aged 20–25, with interest in biology and environmental issues.



The Social Challenge

The decline of bee populations and the lack of awareness about their crucial role in ecosystems and food security.

Their Solution!

Creation of educational campaigns and community initiatives to protect bees, including workshops, school activities, and partnerships with local beekeepers.

Increased awareness of biodiversity and pollination, promotion of sustainable practices, and contribution to the protection of local bee populations.

Innovation & Sustainability

Awareness campaigns, installation of “bee-friendly” gardens in schools, workshops with beekeepers.



“Insieme per il lavoro” (Together for work)

The Team

Giuseppe Truncellito, Ilenia Ricciardi, Caterina Dallai, Vanessa Moretti, Martina Grotti, Mohamed Gueria, Gabriele Monti, Francesco Pratellesi Ersida Dervishi, Ilenia Roma

Young participants aged 20–25, NEETs, with backgrounds in humanities and education, included in the Youth Labs through the cooperative Il Girasole.

The Social Challenge

Lack of accessible career guidance and networking opportunities for young people not in employment, education, or training.

Their Solution!

A peer-to-peer mentoring platform connecting NEETs with professionals and volunteers from local cooperatives and enterprises. Young NEETs and disadvantaged youth in the community will be the final beneficiaries of the project.

Online mentoring sessions, networking events, and skills workshops. **The innovation lies in peer-to-peer support**, where participants help each other by sharing experiences, advice, and practical insights. This collaborative approach not only strengthens skills and professional networks but also significantly increases the chances of finding job opportunities, as peers can provide referrals, guidance, and real-world knowledge that traditional formats may not offer.

Future Plans

- Pilot Launch: Organise the first online mentoring sessions, networking events, and skills workshops to test the format and gather participant feedback.
- Evaluation: Assess the effectiveness of peer-to-peer support in helping participants find job opportunities.
- Partnership Development: Connect with companies, professional associations, and educational institutions to expand mentorship and networking opportunities.

Support Needed:

- Access to platforms and tools for virtual events and workshops.
- Support in outreach to young job seekers and potential mentors.
- Financial or in-kind contributions to cover event costs and resources for participants.



“Di Razza Umana” (Human species)

The Team

Giuseppe Truncellito, Ilenia Ricciardi, Caterina Dallai, Vanessa Moretti, Martina Grotti, Mohamed Gueria, Gabriele Monti, Francesco Pratellesi Ersida Dervishi, Ilenia Roma

Young participants aged 20–25, NEETs, with backgrounds in humanities and education, included in the Youth Labs through the cooperative Il Girasole.

The Social Challenge

Limited cultural exchange and integration opportunities for migrants and local youth.

Their Solution

Organising cultural evenings, language tandems, and storytelling events to foster dialogue and mutual understanding.

Innovation & Sustainability

The innovation lies in helping migrants learn the language and navigate cultural contexts, while migrants share their own experiences and knowledge. This support not only promotes social integration but also helps participants build valuable personal and professional networks.

Future Plans (optional)

- Evaluation: Collect feedback from participants to refine activities and improve the support model.
- Partnership Development: Identify and connect with local NGOs, educational institutions, and community centers to expand reach.
- Funding Search: Explore grants, sponsorships, or local government support to sustain and scale the programme.

Support Needed:

- Mentorship in project management and intercultural programme design.
- Assistance with outreach to migrant communities and local youth networks.

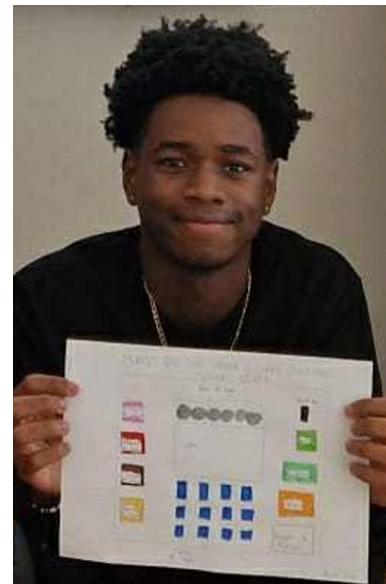
PORTUGAL

Community gym

The Team

Names of young person involved: Bruno Silva

Bruno Silva is a 17-years old youngster from the Bairro dos Navegadores community - in the western suburban area of the Lisbon metropolitan region - who wants to promote physical and mental wellbeing among local residents. Inspired by the needs he observes around him, he aims to create a safe space where people can exercise, improve their health and build confidence. His motivation comes from helping others feel better physically and psychologically through accessible fitness and wellbeing activities.



The Social Challenge

Community problem addressed: Lack of access to affordable physical exercise, youth who spend long hours inactive at home, unemployed young people with no structured activities and community members who want to improve physical health and psychological wellbeing but have no accessible facilities.

The Solution!

Social enterprise concept: Bruno proposes creating a community gym and wellbeing centre equipped for training, stretching, boxing space, Pilates sessions, yoga area and nutritional support. Activities include strength training, Pilates, stretching sessions and nutrition consultations, supported by personal trainers and wellbeing instructors.

How it creates social impact: The project encourages healthy lifestyles, reduces inactivity and supports both physical and mental health. It provides structured activities for unemployed youth, promotes community engagement and creates a welcoming environment that motivates people to take care of their bodies and minds.

Innovation & Sustainability

What makes this idea innovative?

It integrates physical exercise, mental wellbeing and nutrition in a single community-focused space. It brings professional guidance into a low-income neighbourhood where such services are normally inaccessible, making wellbeing inclusive and locally driven.

How will it be financially sustainable?

Funding is planned through partnerships with local municipality (Câmara de Oeiras); local civil parish (Junta de Freguesia de Porto Salvo); local businesses; Holmes Place and Solinca (fitness companies).

Future Plans

Next steps: Seek partnerships, secure equipment, identify a suitable closed gym space, promote the project on social media and public transport posters and begin pilot classes with residents.

Support needed: Gym space, equipment, trained instructors, municipal or corporate funding and visibility through community channels.

“More than moving the body, I want people to move their lives.”

Partner Contact for Follow-up



Partner organisation name: Mindshift
Contact person & email: Vasco Gaião vasco.gaiao@mindshift.pt

Day centre for the elderly

The Team

Names of young person involved: Leandro Moreira

Leandro Moreira is an 18-year-old from Porto Salvo - in the municipality of Oeiras, within the Lisbon Metropolitan Area - who wants to improve the wellbeing of elderly people in his community. Observing many seniors isolated at home with nowhere to spend their free time, he was motivated to create a welcoming day centre. He believes older people deserve connection, safety, entertainment and dignity and wants to offer a place where they can meet new people and enjoy meaningful daily activities.



The Social Challenge

Community problem addressed: Social isolation among elderly people —especially those aged 60+ who are often alone at home without safe spaces to socialise, engage in activities or be supported. This isolation affects their mental and physical wellbeing and places pressure on families who cannot always accompany them.

The Solution!

Social enterprise concept: Leandro proposes creating a day centre offering activities, entertainment, social interaction and basic wellbeing support for elderly people. The centre would include games, arts, physical activities, social events and safe spaces supervised by staff or volunteers.

How it creates social impact: The centre provides seniors with a place to spend their day safely, preventing loneliness and increasing wellbeing. It supports families who worry about leaving elderly relatives alone, improves quality of life and strengthens community cohesion by helping older adults stay active, connected and valued.

Innovation & Sustainability

What makes this idea innovative?

The project brings together socialisation, physical activities, entertainment and support services tailored specifically for seniors in Porto Salvo. It creates a structured, engaging and warm environment instead of simple “care”, fostering dignity, connection and belonging.

How will it be financially sustainable?

According to the business model, sustainability could come from partnerships with local businesses, donation-based support, municipal or parish-level funding, sponsorships from companies and possible small contributions for activities.

Future Plans

Next steps: Establish partnerships, secure a venue for the day centre, promote the project in local churches and community boards, build collaboration with companies and acquire equipment for activities (games, machines, first aid kit, etc.).

Support needed: Space, staff or volunteers, activity materials, equipment for physical activities and financial support from local institutions.

“The impact I want is for elderly to have a safe place to stay during the day, so their families don't have to worry.”

Partner Contact for Follow-up



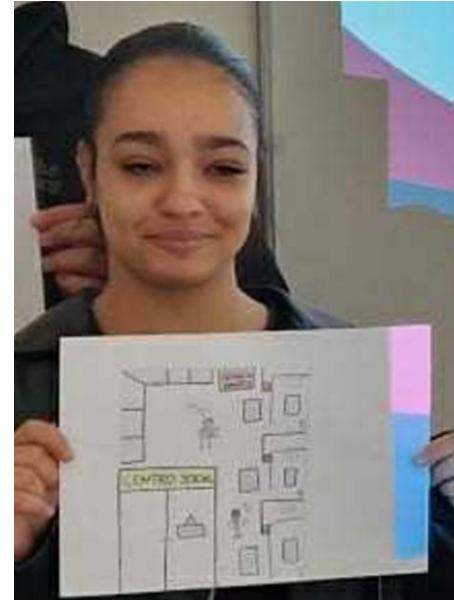
Partner organisation name: Mindshift
Contact person & email: Vasco Gaião vasco.gaiao@mindshift.pt

Community social support centre

The Team

Names of young person involved: Maria Oliveira

Maria Oliveira is a 19-year-old that moved from Brazil to Portugal at age 16 and now lives in Porto Salvo - in the municipality of Oeiras, within the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. Having witnessed how many elderly people and migrants struggle to understand legal processes and access social rights, she wants to create a local social support centre. Her motivation comes from helping community members; especially the elderly, navigate documentation, renewals, social services and everyday problems with dignity and guidance.



The Social Challenge

Community problem addressed: Many elderly people and vulnerable residents do not know where to go for help with documents, legal information, renewals (such as social security) or everyday bureaucracy. They often feel lost and unsupported, which creates inequality in access to rights and services.

The Idea / Solution

Social enterprise concept: Maria proposes a community social support centre, where people (especially seniors) can get help with understanding their rights, treating and renewing documents, accessing social services and getting guidance for everyday difficulties. This includes trained staff or volunteers who can assist with bureaucracy, social support and information.

How it creates social impact: The centre makes essential information accessible, reduces inequality and ensures that elderly people are accompanied rather than navigating bureaucracy alone. It fosters autonomy, dignity and problem-solving, while strengthening trust between community members and social institutions.

Innovation & Sustainability

What makes this idea innovative?

It offers a one-stop support hub where seniors and vulnerable groups receive personalised help, combining legal orientation, social support and everyday assistance in a friendly, accessible environment. Instead of fragmented services, everything is centralised in one community space.

How will it be financially sustainable?

According to the business model, financial sustainability could come from partnerships with local authorities such as the civil parish, the municipality and the social security, local business partnerships, community funding and donations and small contributions for specialised services.

Future Plans

Next steps: Secure a physical space, establish partnerships, promote the centre through the parish council and local events and set up a core team trained to guide people through social and legal processes. Acquire computers, internet access and a printer to support documentation tasks.

Support needed: A venue, trained personnel or volunteers, administrative materials, partnerships with social institutions, and technology resources (computers, printer, internet).



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“Helping elderly people receive proper support for handling documents, solving problems and guiding those who need it is essential to promoting independence, confidence and inclusiveness within the community.”

Partner Contact for Follow-up

Partner organisation name: Mindshift

Contact person & email: Vasco Gaião vasco.gaiao@mindshift.pt



IGNITE

Promoting social entrepreneurial mindsets for a sustainable future for young people

